



# STATE SENATOR RON ALTING

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## Fellow Taxpayers:

Please know that I cut costs and saved valuable tax dollars on this important mailing to you by reducing its size and posting additional info on my Web site.

**R.A.**

[WWW.IN.GOV/SENATOR.ALTING](http://WWW.IN.GOV/SENATOR.ALTING)

## DEAR FRIENDS,

This session, my attention centered on providing funding flexibility to our local schools, including Ivy Tech and Purdue University. I also wanted to delay new unemployment premiums for employers and encourage job creation. I sought to help Hoosier farmers and finalize approval for new Gold Star Family License Plates to honor our fallen veterans.

We accomplished all of this and more to help make Indiana a better place to live, work and raise a family.

I may be reached via e-mail at [Senator.Alting@iga.in.gov](mailto:Senator.Alting@iga.in.gov), by toll-free call at 1-800-382-9467 or by U.S. Mail at Sen. Ron Alting, Indiana State Senate, 200 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN 46204.

Sincerely yours,

Ron Alting  
State Senator

## AG ASSESSMENTS

Lawmakers approved a measure aimed at stabilizing Indiana's agricultural property assessment system that farmers say is currently unfair.

State figures show farmers are experiencing unanticipated "peaks and valleys" in farmland assessments based on an experimental formula crafted in 2006. Economists attribute the fluctuations in-part to speculation about alternative energy sources like ethanol, bio-diesel, bio-mass and wind as well as economic corrections due to the na-

tional recession, food and energy markets.

Senate Enrolled Act 396, supported by the Indiana

Farm Bureau, will use an adjusted rolling average that eliminates the highest assessed value over a six-

year period. Known by economists as the "Modified Olympic Average" technique, the model should provide farmers and local governments more stable agricultural property assessments and be more representative of true market value.





# SEN. RON ALTING

SERVING SENATE DISTRICT 22 TAXPAYERS



## LAWMAKERS GIVE SCHOOLS FUNDING FLEXIBILITY, MORE LOCAL CONTROL

**L**awmakers this session provided schools more financial flexibility and local control. We also took steps to address social promotion of students not reading at grade level.

Giving local school corporations greater ability to address funding challenges and meet the educational needs of Hoosier students are key goals of House Enrolled Act 1367, which I sponsored in the Senate.

Under this new law, schools can claim up to 5 percent of funding normally dedicated to capital projects and use it for instructional purposes. Schools agreeing to pay freezes for staff, with exceptions for built-in raises based on experience and new degrees, can use up to 10 percent.

This measure will provide access to nearly \$82 million

statewide to prevent teacher layoffs and preserve instructional programs. By allowing them to tap into these funds, HEA 1367 helps schools address budget cuts and avoid new taxes on Hoosiers.

This legislation also requires schools to develop a plan to protect instructional programs, including provisions for students who are deficient in reading. Input will be sought through public hearings.

To avoid additional costs and provide more local control, Senate Enrolled Act 309, which I authored, gives schools the option to continue budgeting on a January 1 – December 31 calendar or change to the state's fiscal July 1 – June 30 calendar. Without this new flexibility, many

schools would have to pay for more training and equipment during already difficult financial times.



## PROPERTY TAX CAPS

Hoosier voters in November's general election will determine if permanent caps on property tax rates will be added to Indiana's Constitution.

Lawmakers this session gave final approval to a resolution that would constitutionally cap property tax rates at 1 percent for owner-occupied homes, 2 percent for other residential and agricultural properties and 3 percent for businesses.

This action sets the stage to make these 1-2-3 caps part of the constitution.

In the immediate aftermath of the 2007 property tax crisis, both chambers passed the property tax caps amendment in 2008.

Thanks to the 2010 approval, the amendment has now been passed by two separately-elected sessions of the General Assembly and can go before voters on Nov. 2.

This year's action by both the Senate and House proves lawmakers are once again siding with taxpayers and not tax spenders – keeping the promise of permanent property tax relief and reform.

## JOBS & ECONOMY

With little time and no money, lawmakers worked this session to maintain Indiana's pro-job climate of low taxes and limited regulation.

Senators successfully pushed the delay of \$400 million in new unemployment insurance premiums in 2010. Avoiding these increases should help employers retain or add workers.

Lawmakers also passed initiatives to help Hoosiers recover from the national recession:

- **New Employer Tax Credits** for businesses relocating or incorporating here

and hiring more than 10 full-time employees, not including owners.

- **Small Business Tax Credits** expanded to employers with fewer than 35 workers.

- **Small Business Ombudsman** to advocate with state agencies, navigate regulations, streamline paperwork and monitor burdensome red tape.

- **H.I.R.E.** (Helping Indiana Re-start Employment) initiative to offer tax incentives to employers who hire and train unemployed and underemployed Hoosiers.